

Lake County 10 Year Plan To End Homelessness



Partnership to End Homelessness
Lake County, Illinois
July, 2006

*Restoring hope and dignity
one person, one family at a time*

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Together we can end homelessness

Mission Statement

To create a plan to mobilize, advocate and empower community collaboration towards the elimination of homelessness and fostering an effective system of homeless prevention and intervention in the Lake County community.

Vision Statement

By 2016, all individuals and families facing homelessness in Lake County will have alternatives and access to safe, affordable housing with the resources and supports needed to sustain it.

Rationale

Across the United States, influential people who care are calling for a change in the strategy of addressing homelessness. Government programs, elected officials, homeless providers, business leaders, community members, private and non-profit sectors, are coming together to create a plan to end chronic homelessness. The reasons for this endeavor include:

- This group consumes a disproportionate amount of costly resources.
- This group is in great need of assistance and special services.
- It is a finite problem that can be solved.
- Effective new technologies exist to engage and house this population.
- Homelessness has a visible impact on your community's safety and attractiveness.

Executive Summary

The Lake County, Illinois Partnership to End Homelessness has created a plan that we believe will end chronic homelessness in ten years. By partnering with businesses and civic leaders, clergy, law enforcement, municipal and county government, housing developers, faith-based organizations, consumers, not for profits and foundations in the community, using models from other communities throughout the United States, and moving forward with our plan of action, the partnership is confident that chronic homelessness could be eradicated by 2016. Sharply reducing homelessness and ending chronic homelessness in Lake County is an ambitious, but achievable goal. All too often, emergency shelters, other short-term shelters, and supplementary services offered to homeless people address only the immediate symptoms of homelessness. The Lake County Partnership to End Homelessness has identified the issues, the weaknesses, and the opportunities along with an action plan that will be implemented to eliminate chronic homelessness by the year 2016.

The following goals are included in the Lake County Plan to End Homelessness:

- Lake County has in place an emergency prevention program to prevent eviction and homelessness.
- Lake County has an outreach and engagement system designed to reduce barriers and encourage homeless people to enter appropriate housing.
- Lake County has a sufficient level of high quality supportive services to assist individuals and families to succeed on their own.
- Lake County is implementing a plan to fully address the permanent housing needs of low-income residents.
- Accurate administrative data will be aggregated to understand the nature of homelessness and its solutions. Long range planning will take place with the goal of ending homelessness.
- Lake County will increase the investment and involvement of its residents, businesses, politicians, and faith-based organizations in ending homelessness and transforming Lake County.



Introduction

The County of Lake, Lake County Continuum of Care and the Lake County Coalition to End Homelessness have joined together to develop a comprehensive plan to end homelessness including chronic homelessness.

This collaborative effort draws upon the expertise of business and political leadership, government agencies, nonprofit service providers, faith-based organizations, housing developers, as well as homeless people themselves.

Facts about Homelessness in Lake County

Lake County is a study of contrasts: affluence and extreme poverty, urban and rural communities. An increasing number of low- to moderate-income residents in Lake County need assistance meeting basic food, healthcare, and transportation needs and require help acquiring and managing mainstream benefits and employment income. A single unforeseen healthcare expense can result in the loss of housing or inability to purchase food. More low- to moderate-income residents of diverse backgrounds are also relying on food assistance as indicated through the tremendous rise in use of food pantries over recent years. The growing need for basic transportation, food, and healthcare is simply outpacing the community's ability to provide adequate service.

Although Lake County is one of the most affluent counties in Illinois as measured by per capita income, aggregate statistics mask the tremendous disparity in indicators of prosperity that exists within the County. The average household income in Lake County's most affluent community is 5 times higher than in its poorest community and its highest average per capita income is 8 times higher than its lowest. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has designated North Chicago, Round Lake Beach and the low-income populations of Waukegan and Zion as medically underserved, or "target area," communities. These four target areas report the County's lowest median incomes and highest poverty and unemployment rates. They also account for 63% of the County's teen births, 65% of births to single mothers, and 60% of births to mothers older than 20 who lack a high school diploma or equivalent.

There is a critical shortage of affordable housing in Lake County. The supply of affordable housing has not kept up with demand. Many housing units being renovated or built are simply not affordable to low-income families. In Lake County, an individual would need to earn \$17.13/hour, 40 hours per week, in order to afford the Fair Market Rent of a 2 bedroom apartment. This equates to 133 hours per week at minimum wage.

The cost of homelessness can be quite high. People who are homeless use a variety of public systems in an inefficient and costly way when they have no permanent place to stay. Of the 414 persons estimated to be homeless on any given night in Lake County, approximately 44 are considered chronically homeless. These people experience extended and repeated episodes of homelessness.

Most importantly, individuals who are homeless endanger their health and safety. They reduce their chance of securing employment and their suffering increases if they are disabled or have a mental illness.

Persons who become homeless often fall into one or more categories:

- Persons who are mentally ill
- Substance abusers
- Veterans with post traumatic stress
- Victims of domestic violence
- Ex-offenders
- Youth

Families who are homeless face different if not more serious issues. Homelessness disrupts children and families and their extended support networks, limiting educational achievement, social and spiritual development and health. This dislocation caused by homelessness has both immediate and long-term consequences requiring costly and ongoing publicly and privately funded programs.

Special Populations

Veterans: Lake County is home to the North Chicago Veterans Administration (NCVA) Medical Center. It acts as a magnet for many homeless veterans from the metropolitan Chicago area and beyond. The medical center's Homeless Veterans Rehabilitation program is the only VA Domiciliary-based residential rehabilitation program of its type in Illinois. The Drug Dependency Treatment Center (DDTC) is the only long-term substance abuse treatment program currently operating in the VA system nation-wide. Further, the NCVA has an acute substance abuse treatment program with generally a shorter waiting list than other area programs. The center also acts as a referral point for long-term medical and psychiatric care from other area VA medical centers and has a community based Compensated Work Therapy / Residential Treatment Program not found at other area VA medical centers. The center consists of 150 operating hospital beds, 204 nursing home beds, 60 beds for homeless veterans, and a 45 bed domiciliary for veterans with substance abuse disorders. Approximately 85% of that population also experiences serious mental illness and/or homelessness. As such, Veterans make up 10.9% of the county's population as a whole and constitute 22.4% of the county's homeless population. In comparison, only 19% of the homeless population in the northeastern Illinois region are Veterans and national estimates range from 23%-35%.

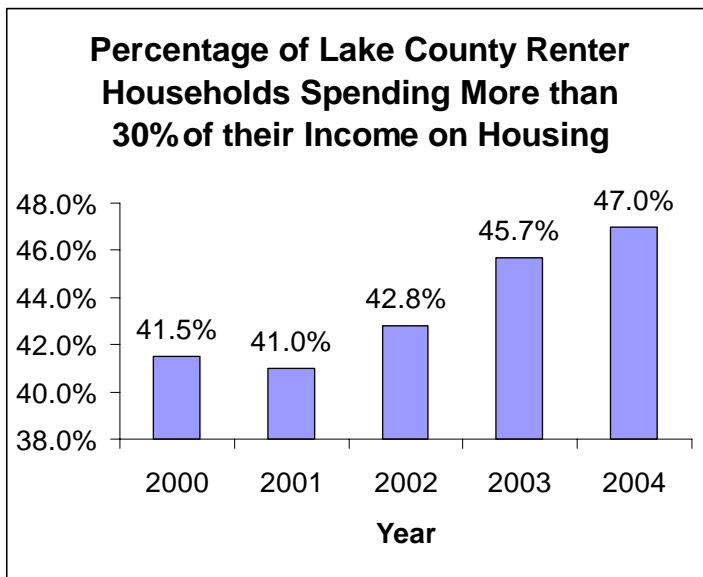
Ex-offenders: The Illinois Department of Corrections reports that 769 offenders were released on parole in Lake County during FY06. Of those 769 offenders, 588 (76%) were offenders originating from Lake County.



Youth and Young Adults: The causes of youth homelessness often include family breakdown and child welfare system failure. Many youth become homeless after running away from home, being locked out or abandoned by their parents or guardians, and running or being emancipated or discharged from institutional and other state care. As a consequence of being homeless, many youth lack self-sufficiency skills and financial resources. Homeless young people often suffer from mental health disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse disorders, and have poor physical health, and limited access to quality healthcare.

What is the existing research on homelessness?

According to an American Community Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau in 2000-2004, housing costs have increasingly become unaffordable. The chart below shows the percent of households in Lake County that spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Today 47% of households spend over 30% of their household income on housing.¹



Northeastern Illinois Homeless Research

In 2001, the Northeastern Illinois Regional Roundtable on Homelessness commissioned the University of Illinois at Chicago to conduct the region's most comprehensive study ever conducted on homelessness in Chicago and its suburbs. The landmark study confirmed that there are often multiple and complex reasons that people become homeless. However, homelessness follows three basic patterns for everyone:

¹ *Illinois Poverty Summit: Creating a State of Opportunities*. "The Price of Housing Continues to Rise in Lake County." Statistics taken from the United States Census Bureau in an American Community Survey 2000-2004. September, 2005.

Economic Hardship: The inability to pay rent is by far the most common cause for homelessness (59%). Losing a job (49%) and being cut off from or receiving inadequate public assistance (40.6%) are also major factors.

Health Issues: Health problems, including substance abuse (46.3%) and physical (18.6%) or mental health problems (13.5%), are significant contributors to homelessness.

Leaving Precarious Situations: Leaving an unstable situation, such as a "doubled-up" living arrangement (42%) or an institutional setting (47%), including a hospital, mental health facility, or prison, often leads to homelessness.

People also tend to experience homelessness in different ways:

Crisis homelessness is a one-time experience that lasts for a year or less.

Episodic homelessness is a pattern in which people are homeless for multiple, short periods.

Persistent or Chronic homelessness is defined as single individuals living with a disability who have been homeless for a year or longer or have had four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Of those surveyed, 40.3% had children under the age of 18. 39% of people who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in northeastern Illinois held jobs, and nearly two-thirds did not receive any form of government assistance. The needs of people who are homeless were not being met in a number of areas, including affordable housing, employment services, substance abuse treatment, dental care, and legal aid.



Northeastern Illinois Homeless Statistics

Age		Education	
18-29	17%	Less than High School	32.9%
30-39	24.5%	High School Graduate / GED	34.6%
40-49	36.6%	Some College	24.8%
50-59	14.7%	College Graduate	6.0%
60+	7.3%	Post Graduate	1.6%
Gender		Employment Status	
Male	68.1%	Employed	39.1%
Female	31.9%	Unemployed	38.4%
Race/Ethnicity		Not in the Labor Market	18.1%
African American	53.4%	Other	4.4%
Caucasian	34.4%		
Latino	7.6%		
Other	4.6%		

What are the local homeless counts?

On January 26, 2006, Lake County conducted its annual point-in-time homeless count identifying 414 homeless persons in Lake County on that particular night. Obtaining an accurate count of the homeless population is an extremely difficult task. Most efforts to count those who are homeless focus on the number of individuals using shelter or other homeless services on any given night. Point-in-time counts rely on self-reported substance and mental illness data, often resulting in estimates that are lower than the actual number of homeless persons with these issues. Regardless, communities across the country primarily rely on point-in-time counts and consider this data to be the best estimate of the number of homeless. The Point-in-Time study is a snapshot and is believed to reasonably represent the average homeless population.

Of the 414 persons counted on January 26, 2006, 179 (43%) were homeless individuals and 235 (57%) were homeless persons in families. Homeless families account for the fastest growing segment of the homeless population (38% in 2005 and 26% in 2004).

Of the 414 homeless persons counted on January 26, 2006: *(Respondents may fall into more than one category)*

- (112) (27%) reported being chronic substance abusers
- (93) (22%) reported being Veterans
- (78) (19%) reported being a victim of domestic abuse
- (71) (17%) reported having severe mental illnesses
- (44) (11%) reported being chronically homeless
- (9) (2%) reported having HIV/AIDS

What housing and supportive services are currently available?

Lake County has quite a few services available to individuals who become homeless or who are on the verge of homelessness. These include emergency housing, which is provided on a short-term basis and transitional housing, which is intended to give individuals time to locate more permanent homes. Lake County has 104 emergency beds and 242 transitional beds. Several organizations within the county have worked together to obtain U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding for more permanent housing, focusing particularly on persons with more chronic homeless problems. There are agencies that focus specifically on helping the homeless and many others that provide supportive services to the homeless as part of their program. Appendix B includes a list of housing available in Lake County specifically for homeless persons.

The challenge is not that we don't know what to do. The challenge is that we have more individuals facing homelessness than we are currently able to assist at any given time.

The four basic categories of housing for persons experiencing homelessness are: *emergency shelter*, *safe haven*, *transitional housing*, and *permanent supportive housing*.

Emergency Shelter addresses basic needs and provides temporary shelter to homeless individuals and families for up to 6 months. The intent is to provide immediate shelter, food, enrollment in mainstream benefits, and basic services to homeless persons until the household can be linked to other community-based housing services. Emergency shelter includes floor space and meals in church basements, motel vouchers, and short-term group living arrangements. Lake County has approximately 104 year-round emergency shelter beds as well as approximately 90 seasonal beds (cots) available in church basements from October through April.

Safe Haven is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in supportive services. Safe havens serve as refuge for this population, but provide more than shelter. Safe havens close the gap in housing and services available for those homeless individuals who, perhaps because of their illness, have refused help or have been denied or removed from other homeless programs.

Transitional Housing provides housing and supportive services from 6-24 months for homeless individuals and families. The intent is to provide stable housing with appropriate supports to allow clients to stabilize and move into permanent housing with supportive services. Transitional housing may include group living arrangements, apartment buildings and scattered site apartments. There are approximately 242 transitional housing beds located throughout Lake County.

Permanent Housing is defined as long-term, community-based housing that enables individuals and families to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. Supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated with other public or private service agencies.

In addition to housing programs, there is an array of supportive services needed for persons experiencing homelessness. Supportive services are defined as all non-housing assistance that help persons experiencing homelessness acquire and/or maintain housing. Examples may include outreach, healthcare, child care, substance abuse services, case management, transportation, education, job training/placement, life skills, counseling, parenting skills, mental health care, and a variety of other services.



What are the plans from other communities?

There is a plethora of models, material, statistics and successes at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Website.² This nonprofit organization's goal is to mobilize community service agencies into an alliance to end homelessness. The site lists over 70 United States cities that are mobilizing and implementing strategies to end homelessness in ten years.



Development of Strategies to Address the Issues

The partnership met over a period from July, 2005 through May, 2006 to identify issues and create an action plan. The group identified six crucial components which would need to be incorporated into our plan to end homelessness.

1. **Prevention and Outreach.** Stopping homelessness before it happens by helping at-risk households remain stably housed. Reaching out to the homeless or those in danger of becoming homeless.
2. **Supportive Services.** Providing supportive services to help homeless individuals to locate and maintain housing.
3. **Expanding Permanent Housing Opportunities.** Expanding affordable housing with an emphasis on housing linked to supportive services.
4. **Planning and Coordination.** Aggregating data to understand the nature of homelessness and its solutions; long range planning and service coordination among providers.
5. **Community Awareness/Advocacy.** Increasing the community's awareness of the homeless situation. Spurring the community into contributing to the cause via volunteerism, funding, and legislative support.
6. **Funding.** Identifying new revenue streams and securing funding for necessary services.



² National Alliance to End Homeless.
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/localplans/>
accessed 4/28/05.

Prevention and Outreach

Summary

Lake County takes a multi-dimensional approach to the prevention of homelessness, recognizing that its network of social services operates as a safety net that prevents many at-risk persons from becoming homeless (i.e. timely delivery of mental health or substance abuse treatment can prevent decompensation that may lead to homelessness; timely job placement assistance may prevent homelessness for those at-risk due to job loss; enrollment in SSDI or other mainstream benefits can provide sufficient resources for those teetering on the edge of homelessness, etc.) In addition, homelessness can be forestalled through rent and utility assistance, proactive discharge planning, legal advocacy, housing counseling, and crisis services. An effective outreach system is also important to engage persons living on the street to help them access resources.

The most economically efficient way to end homelessness is to prevent its occurrence. Financial assistance to prevent an eviction, mediation to address problems with a landlord or lender, and case management services to assess, advocate, and plan alongside the client, can all prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

One of the best ways to change the devastation of becoming homeless is to put assistance in place before persons become homeless. This includes:

- Publicizing available short-term funds for rent, security deposit, and mortgage assistance, provided through the State of IL Department of Human Services.
- Providing emergency rent and utility assistance through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).
- Assistance from Prairie State Legal Services, which provides an eviction-prevention program.
- Mortgage-foreclosure prevention assistance through the Affordable Housing Commission.

Strengths

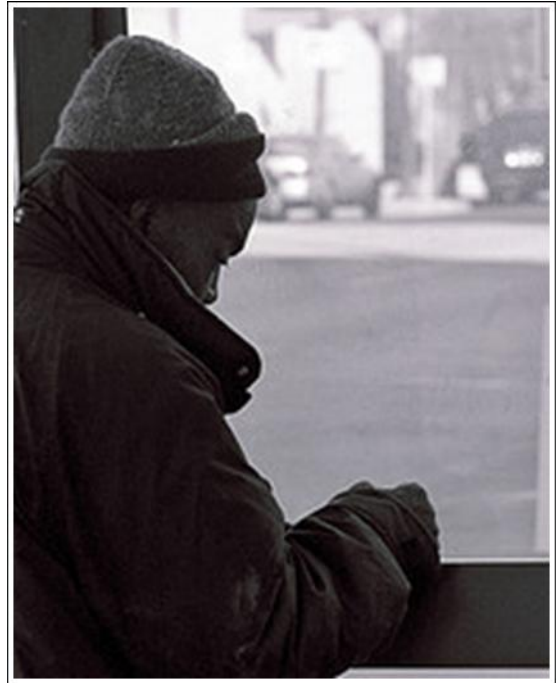
- The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) provides some funding for security deposit, rent, and mortgage assistance to prevent homelessness. (\$202,207 provided in FY2006 to assist 199 households).
- The Federal Emergency Food & Shelter Program provides some funding for rent and utility assistance to households experiencing an emergency and therefore at risk of becoming homeless. (Between the months of March, 2005 and December, 2005, \$274,657 in EFSP funds provided assistance to 374 households).
- Prairie State Legal Services provides legal counseling and representation to prevent eviction, loss of housing assistance, and acquisition or maintenance of entitlement programs. (400 households assisted in housing related issues in 2005).
- PADS Crisis Services conducts outreach activities, providing hygiene supplies and lunches, to build relationships and engage the chronically homeless 3 days a week.
- The Lake County Jail employs a part-time reintegration specialist to provide discharge planning services to help incarcerated persons locate housing and supportive services upon their release.
- The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, in coordination with Waukegan Township and the Urban League, have a variety of programs to assist persons being released from jails and prison to successfully reintegrate into the community.
- The Lake County Affordable Housing Corporation provides mortgage foreclosure prevention services.

Weaknesses

- Security deposit, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance programs are typically structured to provide only 1-2 months of assistance.
- The homeless prevention system doesn't address the root causes of homelessness such as the need for affordable housing and living wage jobs.
- Many residents are not eligible for homeless prevention programs because of strict eligibility requirements.
- Many area hospitals and mental health institutions lack comprehensive discharge planning protocols to ensure residents are not released into homelessness.
- There are an insufficient number of outreach workers (especially mental health professionals) to engage the homeless population seven days a week.

Opportunities

- In FY2007, the State of Illinois will increase the Homeless Prevention Fund from \$5 million to \$11 million statewide.
- The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism has built significant momentum to increase the level of services and employment targeting ex-offenders.



Threats

- Federal budget cuts, particularly the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP), threaten continued funding for prevention and outreach programs.
- On average, households are taking on more debt and the mortgage foreclosure rate has been rising across the United States.

Supportive Services

Summary

The goal of the supportive service network is to ensure that residents receive social services that are needed for acquiring and maintaining self-sufficiency. Once persons leave the homeless service system, continued services are essential to preventing a return to homelessness. The homeless service system attempts to link persons with health and social service programs to reduce the burden on the homeless service system.

Strengths

- Overall, Lake County has a wide array of high quality supportive services.
- The Critical Time Intervention with Representative Payee (CTI-RP) Program model is proving to successfully move chronically homeless persons from the streets into permanent supportive housing.
- There are many successful supportive service delivery models in Lake County.

Weaknesses

- Many homeless persons have difficulty getting driver's licenses or State ID cards.
- Homeless persons lack a year-round "home-base" where they can be contacted regarding supportive services or employment.
- Many residents need ongoing case management and supportive services after leaving homeless programs in order to continue their successful behavior and maintain self-sufficiency.
- There is limited capacity in many areas of the supportive service network, particularly dental care, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, self-sufficiency programs, primary healthcare, and supportive services targeting ex-offenders and the chronic homeless population.

- Limited transportation makes it difficult for residents to get to work and access many supportive services.
- Many residents do not meet strict eligibility requirements for social service and/or mainstream benefit programs.
- Many employers are reluctant to hire ex-offenders. In 2005 only 34 out of 268 of the Waukegan Township Reentry program participants were placed in jobs.

Opportunities

- The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism has developed significant momentum and community awareness regarding the need for ex-offender services.
- Supportive service providers in Lake County are cooperative and take every opportunity to collaborate.

Threats

- State and Federal budget cuts continue to threaten funding of supportive service programs.
- It is anticipated that the aging homeless population will have an increased need for health care and other social services.



Expanding Permanent Housing Opportunities

Summary

While we have made some strides in decreasing the number of homeless individuals in our community, there are quite a few concerns that create additional challenges.

- Persons leaving jail or prison usually have greater obstacles to finding homes. Some obstacles relate to insufficient money, and others from reluctance of people in general to have formerly incarcerated persons in their neighborhood.
- Many individuals have been able to use HUD Section 8 housing certificates that assist with rental payments. The Federal Government has decreased the number of Section 8 certificates it now issues each year and there is currently a 10 year waiting list for Section 8.
- While most of the counseling and human service agencies are able to assist homeless individuals and others in need, they do not have sufficient staff to meet the need.
- In general, rents and home prices in Lake County are higher than in many neighboring communities, and this challenges individuals with limited incomes.
- Some more chronically homeless individuals require considerable assistance from human service agencies to begin trusting others enough to receive housing assistance.
- Relationships and social networks are very important to the support and survival of homeless youth. Most importantly, strong and positive relationships with adults, programs, or organizations can prevent a homeless episode.

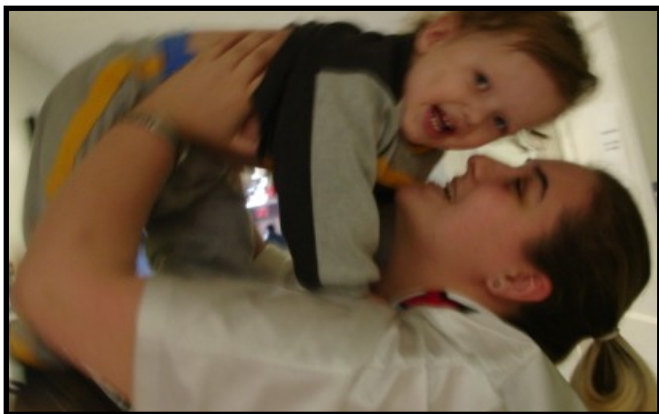
Strengths:

- The statewide housing rental assistance program to create rent subsidies for very low income families will begin in 2007.
- Lake County has a relatively small number of chronically homeless.

- Lake County has good collaboration between agencies and the commitment to assist homeless individuals is prevalent.
- Lake County is one of the wealthiest counties in the United States.
- Lake County has a strong continuum of care for the homeless.

Weaknesses:

- Insufficient funding for homeless programs-lack of capacity to meet needs.
- Insufficient number of affordable housing units.
- Insufficient number of tenant-based housing subsidies.
- Lack of alternatives for homeless youth.
- Poverty.
- Housing authorities in Lake County have 10,000 people on the waiting list for Section 8 subsidized housing.
- Clients are not able to utilize Section 8 Vouchers if they do not have money for security deposit.
- The transportation system in Lake County is limited.
- There are no new Section 8 vouchers being issued.
- Difficulty employing and housing ex-offenders, undocumented immigrants, and individuals in recovery.
- High cost of rent in Lake County. Lack of livable wage.
- Scarce number of Single Room Occupancies (SRO) in the county.
- Lack of awareness of real problems the homeless face.



Threats:

- Government budget cuts could create a decrease in existing services.
- Unemployment.
- A 'not in my backyard' mentality.
- Lack of full-time employment with benefits.

Opportunities

- Banks/companies would like to become more involved in community development and their talent/expertise could be tapped.
- Untapped Foundation funds.
- Availability of apartments.
- Statewide housing rental assistance program will be available in 2007.
- Educational opportunities.
- Landlords receptivity to Section 8.



Planning & Coordination

Summary

Homeless service planning and coordination in Lake County is primarily conducted through the Continuum of Care Advisory Planning Group (APG) and Lake County Coalition for the Homeless (LCCH). These groups are comprised of homeless service providers, local governments, funders, social service agencies, businesses, and formerly homeless persons. The APG is responsible for ongoing needs assessment and analysis, program evaluation & provision of technical assistance, increased stakeholder participation, development of strategies for addressing identified needs, monitoring of progress toward strategic objectives and action steps, coordination of agencies that work with homeless and coordination of the annual HUD SuperNOFA application. The LCCH is responsible for monitoring and lobbying of legislation affecting homeless services, providing educational programming for social service providers and the general public, and conducting general advocacy on homeless issues. In addition the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all programs that receive funding through the McKinney-Vento Act to participate in a Continuum of Care – wide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The HMIS is a computerized data collection application that collects information on homeless persons and stores that data in an electronic format. HMIS is used to better understand the characteristics of homeless persons in Lake County, including their demographic characteristics, patterns of homelessness, and use of services; improve the delivery of housing and services; and document Lake County's progress in ending homelessness.

Strengths

- Lake County has a very active and strong Continuum of Care for the homeless that was recognized by the Urban Institute as being among the top 25 performing continuums in the United States.
- Lake County has a relatively mature HMIS and is one of the earliest communities in the U.S. to implement a Homeless Management Information System.

Weaknesses

- Lake County's HMIS is only used by McKinney Vento funded homeless service agencies.
- Agencies participating in the HMIS share very little data with other agencies.
- The Lake County Planning Department has limited staffing available to expand the HMIS.
- Currently there is not a "First Call" for help program in Lake County.

Opportunities

- The community's HMIS, ServicePoint, developed an Advanced Reporting Module that may enhance homeless service planning and coordination.
- The Partnership to End Homelessness has built momentum around ending homelessness in Lake County and has engaged a number of community stakeholders.

Threats

- Homeless service staff can get "burned out" attending multiple homeless service planning and coordination meetings.



Lake County Partnership to End Homelessness Goals and Action Planning

Prevention and Outreach

Emergency Prevention Programs:

Goal

Lake County has in place an emergency prevention program that includes a sufficient amount of rent/mortgage/utility assistance, case management, landlord/lender intervention, and other strategies to prevent eviction and homelessness.

Action Steps

- Increase funding for rent/mortgage and utility assistance:
 - Increase IDHS funding by 180% for the year 2007 and advocate for this level or higher for future years.
 - Secure funding to assist residents with longer-term housing subsidies.
- Engage churches, schools, food pantries, welfare workers and social service agencies as potential referral agents in the homeless outreach and prevention process.
- Engage neighborhoods, stakeholders and cities / towns in Lake County to work together to access homeless prevention services. Hold community forums in high-risk neighborhoods.
- Secure reliable funding for:
 - Supportive services necessary to dispense rent/mortgage and utility assistance.
 - Ongoing case management services to reduce risk of homelessness.

Outreach to Homeless People on the Streets:

Goal

Lake County has an outreach and engagement system designed to reduce barriers and encourage homeless people so that they enter appropriate housing (including safe havens) linked with appropriate services.

Action Steps

- Police involvement is essential to help move homeless people off the street for their own safety, particularly when the weather is dangerously cold or hot. Members of the Partnership, will provide a minimum of one training to law enforcement personnel each year.
- Expand the number of outreach workers to provide coverage seven days a week and ensure that mental health professionals are involved in outreach.
- Ensure that there is a sufficient amount of interim housing available to those on the street. PADS is pursuing funding to expand the fixed site year round emergency shelter, adding capacity for 42 individuals.
- Increase the PADS Safe Haven population by 25% in 2006. Secure funding for additional SAFE Haven units.



Supportive Services

Goal

Lake County has a sufficient level of high quality supportive services to assist individuals and families to succeed on their own.

Action Steps

Employment

- Ensure that Lake County residents have access to job readiness, placement, and retention services.
- Ensure that ex-offenders receive services through the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism programs and succeed in obtaining and retaining employment.

Case Management

- Ensure that services focus on individuals most at risk of becoming homeless including those who lack supportive families and who have mental health problems.
- Secure new funding sources for ongoing case management services. Approach SAMHSA, Health and Human Services (HHS), the Lake County Community Trust, United Way, Private donors, and foundations.
- Use our influence and work with legislative leaders to establish a line item for support services, for example in the HHS budget.

Behavioral Health

- Ensure that treatment for residents with substance abuse disorders and mental illness has sufficient capacity and is provided in a timely fashion (ACT Team, Veteran's Administration, and the Lake County Health Department).

Community Involvement

- Encourage members of the faith community to serve as mentors for persons leaving incarceration.



Expanding Permanent Housing Opportunities

Vision

Quality housing is available and affordable to each household in Lake County, with accessible and appropriate services where needed that support individual and family success.

Goal 1

Lake County has a sufficient supply of permanent supportive housing to meet the needs of all chronically homeless people.

Action Steps

Create 44 new permanent housing units (scattered site apartments) for chronically homeless persons:

- Add five new Shelter Plus Care apartments to the Lake County Health Department permanent housing project in 2006.
- Add nine new Shelter Plus Care apartments to the CTI-RP project in 2007.
- Develop plan to add five new Shelter Plus Care beds in 2008.
- Develop plan to add five new Shelter Plus Care beds in 2009.
- Create 20 additional units between 2010 and 2016.

Goal 2

61% of homeless persons will move from transitional housing to permanent housing (this is a national goal).

Action Step

Prairie State Legal Services will develop a tenant training program to prepare homeless persons living in transitional and interim housing to obtain & maintain permanent housing. Four classes per year beginning in 2006.

Maristella will provide security deposit assistance to 150 families beginning in 2006. Funded by HOME.

Goal 3

Lake County will fully address the permanent housing needs of low-income residents.

Action Step

- Create additional tenant-based scattered site apartment units sponsored by faith-based groups (one unit per year).
- The Partnership will approach employers to create TBRA scholarships. For example, a

company could sponsor 5-10 scholarships each year for employees.

- Implement statewide rental assistance program to provide on-going rental subsidies to approximately 100 low-income households each year in Lake County.
- Assess the amount of apartment stock (currently there are no problems) and work with developers to increase stock if necessary.
- Partnership to work with Habitat for Humanity and the Affordable Housing Commission to increase the number of low-income first-time home buyers.

Housing for Special Populations

Veterans:

Goals

Agencies and funders in Lake County will collaborate to provide wrap-around supportive services and Veteran-sensitive permanent housing which target those Veterans who experience long-term or chronic homelessness.

Action Steps

- Target those Veterans who live on the streets or in emergency shelters, frequent users of emergency care, those who have physical and mental disabilities and/or histories of trauma, and redirect them into beneficial programs that lead to permanent housing.
- Maximize Veterans care coordination services.



Youth and Young Adults:

Vision

Lake County must work to ensure young people—like those transitioning out of the foster care system and those leaving juvenile corrections—have safe, stable, and affordable housing options. Strategies must include stable, safe, and affordable housing linked with supportive services.

Goal

To be effective in moving youth and young adults toward independence, housing must be made available and must be connected to youth-centered transition services.

Action Steps

- Youth in Lake County will be aware of resources including the runaway hotline which are available to them.
- A consortium will be created among youth service providers to ensure continuity and coordination of services.
- Assessment will be completed regarding the need for youth shelter services in Lake County. Target date 2007.

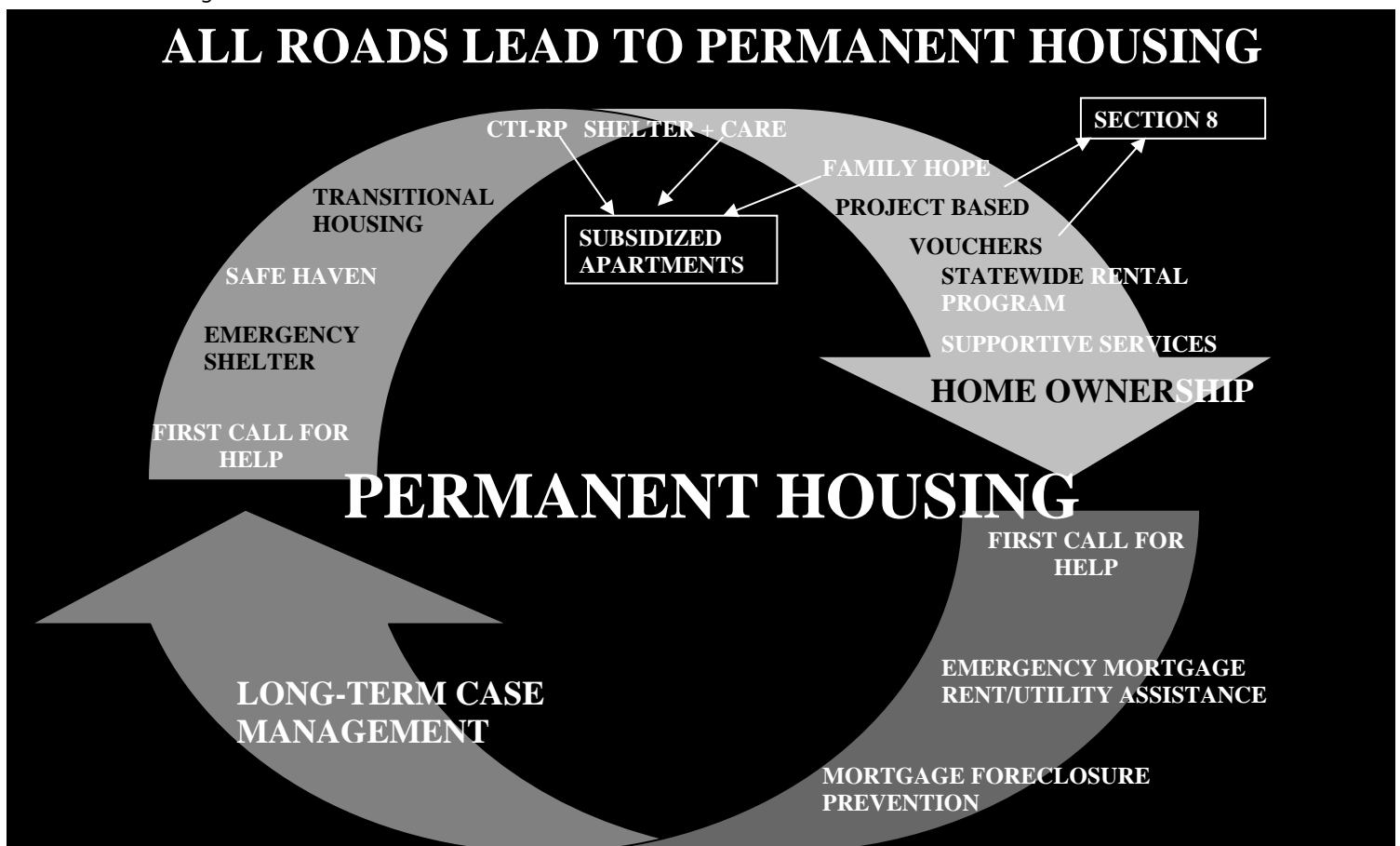
Ex-offenders:

Goal

Housing opportunities will exist in Lake County for all people released from public institutions.

Action Steps

- PADS will temporarily house ex-offenders and coordinate services with the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism until permanent housing can be located.
- Partnership will meet with Lake County Housing Authorities along with the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism to identify obstacles and work toward solutions in housing ex-offenders and end specific restrictions for housing.
- For those persons leaving prison: Explore replication of effective programs; develop plan for service and housing implementation; and educate community about reintegration challenges.



Planning and Coordination

Goal

- Accurate administrative data will be aggregated to understand the nature of homelessness and its solutions. Long range planning will take place with the goal of ending homelessness. Services shall be coordinated among providers and accessible by consumers.

Action Steps

- Continue to refine Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system and encourage supportive service providers to participate.
- Develop ten year plan to end homelessness and create a solutions committee to implement plan recommendations and provide ongoing evaluation.
- Develop a plan for rapid re-housing of homeless.
- Secure funding for a "First Call for Help" system for the homeless.

- Business leaders will participate in planning to end homelessness in a variety of ways including social enterprise, hiring of ex-offenders, employer housing subsidies, volunteer team building projects, financial investments, offering business models to community organizations, and serving on non-profit boards.
- Lake County residents and faith-based organizations will embrace the challenge of ending homelessness and offer their time, talent and financial resources to this endeavor.



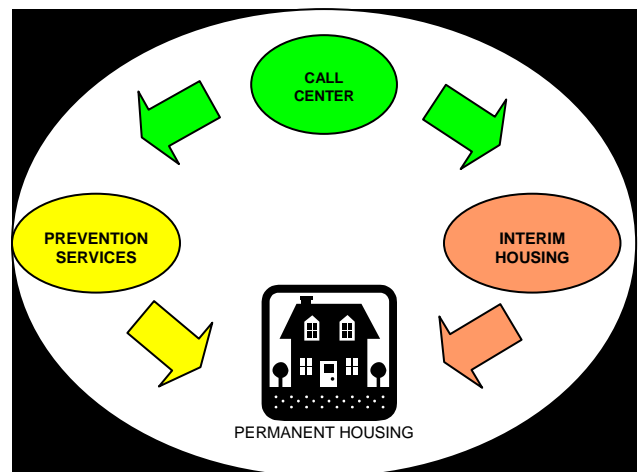
Community Awareness/Advocacy

Goal

Lake County will increase the investment and involvement of residents, businesses, politicians, and faith-based organizations to end homelessness and transform Lake County.

Action Steps

- Elected officials will sponsor and support legislation to eradicate homelessness in Lake County.
- The Partnership will encourage local legislators to ensure that state-wide rental housing assistance dollars raised in Lake County will remain in Lake County to serve the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.



Appendix A: Point in Time Homeless Count

January 26, 2006 Point-In-Time Homeless Count

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
1. Homeless Individuals	78 (N)	98 (N)	3 (N)	179 (N)
2. .Homeless Families with Children	44 (N)	33 (N)	1 (N)	78 (N)
2a. Persons in Homeless Families with Children	123 (N)	106 (N)	6 (N)	235 (N)
Total (lines 1 + 2a only)	201 (N)	204 (N)	9 (N)	414 (N)
Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
1. Chronically Homeless	41 (N)		3 (N)	44 (N)
2. Severely Mentally Ill	70 (N)		1 (N)	71 (N)
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	110 (N)		2 (N)	112 (N)
4. Veterans	93 (N)		0 (N)	93 (N)
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS	9 (N)		0 (N)	9(N)
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	78 eN)		0 (N)	78 (N)
7. Youth (D under 18 years of age)	0 (N)		0 (N)	0 (N)

Appendix B: Housing Inventory Chart

Emergency Shelter: Fundamental Components in CoC System – Housing Inventory Chart																
Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS Part. Code	Number of Year-Round Beds in HMIS		Geo Code □	Target Pop		Year-Round			Total Year-Round Beds	Other Beds				
						A	B	Fam. Units	Fam. Beds	Indiv. Beds		Seas-onal	Overflow & Voucher			
Current Inventory			Ind.	Fam.												
A Safe Place	Emergency Shelter	F	0	0	177404	M	DV	9	28	7	35	-	-			
Catholic Charities	Motel Voucher	N	-	-	177404	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	20			
Catholic Charities	Samaritan House	5	-	18	177404	FC	-	6	18	-	18	-	-			
Lake County Haven	Transitional Shelter	5	8	2	179097	M	-	1	2	8	10	-	-			
Maristella	Motel Voucher	N	-	-	179097	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	21			
PADS Crisis Services	Emergency Shelter	1	20	22	179097	M	-	6	22	20	42	90	30			
SUBTOTALS:			28	42	SUBTOT. CURRENT INVENTORY:			22	70	35	105	90	71			
New Inventory in Place in 2005 (Feb. 1, 2005 – Jan. 31, 2006)			Ind.	Fam.												
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
SUBTOTALS:			-	-	SUBTOTAL NEW INVENTORY:			-	-	-	-	-	-			
Inventory Under Development		Anticipated Occupancy Date														
-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
SUBTOTAL INVENTORY UNDER DEVELOPMENT:								-	-	-	-	-	-			
UNMET NEED								UNMET NEED TOTALS:			10	35	32	67	0	0
1. Total Year-Round Individual ES Beds:				35	4. Total Year-Round Family Beds:								70			
2. Year-Round Individual ES Beds in HMIS:				28	5. Year-Round Family ES Beds in HMIS:								42			
3. HMIS Coverage Individual ES Beds:				80%	6. HMIS Coverage Family ES Beds:								60%			

Appendix B: Housing Inventory Chart

Transitional Housing: Fundamental Components in CoC System – Housing Inventory Chart															
Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS Part. Code	# of Year-Round Beds in HMIS		Geo Code □	Target Pop		Year-Round			Total Year-Round Beds				
						A	B	Family Units	Family Beds	Individ. Beds					
Current Inventory			Ind.	Fam											
Alexian Brothers	The Harbor	5	9	-	177404	SMF	AIDS	-	-	9	9				
COOL	Transitional Housing	5	-	37	179097	FC	-	9	37	-	37				
Lake County Haven	Transitional Housing	5	6	21	179097	M	-	9	21	6	27				
LCRDC	SAFe Housing	5	-	31	179097	FC	-	9	31	-	31				
North Chicago VA	Reintegration Program	N	0	-	175052	SMF	VET	-	-	37	37				
North Chicago VA	Homeless Veteran	N	0	-	175052	SMF	VET	-	-	62	62				
Waukegan Township	Staben House	5	-	18	177404	FC	-	6	18	-	18				
Waukegan Township	Staben Center	5	18	-	177404	SM	-	-	-	18	18				
SUBTOTALS:			33	107	SUBTOT. CURRENT INVENTORY:			33	107	132	239				
New Inventory in Place in 2005 (Feb. 1, 2005 – Jan. 31, 2006)			Ind.	Fam											
PADS Crisis Services	Safe Haven	5	15	-	175052	SMF	-	-	-	15	15				
Lake County Haven	Transitional Housing	5	-	3	179097	M	-	1	3	-	3				
SUBTOTALS:			15	3	SUBTOTAL NEW INVENTORY:			1	3	15	18				
Inventory Under Development		Anticipated Occupancy													
A Safe Place	Transitional Housing	Opened 3/1/06			179097	M	DV	12	41	8	49				
SUBTOTAL INVENTORY UNDER DEVELOPMENT:								12	41	8	49				
UNMET NEED								UNMET NEED TOTALS:				0	0	0	0
1. Total Year-Round Individual TH Beds:			147	4. Total Year-Round Family Beds:							110				
2. Year-Round Individual TH Beds in HMIS:			48	5. Year-Round Family TH Beds in HMIS:							110				
3. HMIS Coverage Individual TH Beds:			33%	6. HMIS Coverage Family TH Beds:							100%				

Appendix B: Housing Inventory Chart

Permanent Supportive Housing*: Fundamental Components in CoC System – Housing Inventory Chart												
Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS Part. Code	Number of Year-Round Beds in HMIS		Geo Code □	Target Population		Year-Round			Total Year-Round Beds	
						A	B	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual /CH Beds		
Current Inventory			Ind.	Fam.								
Independence Center	Permanent Housing	5	8	-	177404	SMF	-	-	-	8/3	8	
Health Department	Shelter Plus Care	7	18	18	179097	M	-	7	18	18/12	36	
PADS Crisis Services	Permanent Housing	5	10	-	177404	SM	-	-	-	10/10	10	
SUBTOTALS:			36	18	SUBTOT. CURRENT INVENTORY:			7	18	36/25	54	
New Inventory in Place in 2005 (Feb. 1, 2005 – Jan. 31, 2006)			Ind.	Fam.								
Shields Township	CTI-RP Program	5	15	-	179097	SMF	-	-	-	15/15	15	
SUBTOTALS:			15	-	SUBTOTAL NEW INVENTORY:			-	-	15/15	15	
Inventory Under Development		Anticipated Occupancy Date										
Health Department	Shelter Plus Care	7/1/06		179097	SMF	-	-	-	-	5/5	5	
SUBTOTAL INVENTORY UNDER DEVELOPMENT:							-	-	5/5	5		
UNMET NEED							UNMET NEED TOTALS:		15	47	39/39	86
1. Total Year-Round Individual PH Beds:			51	4. Total Year-Round Family Beds:							18	
2. Year-Round Individual PH Beds in HMIS:			51	5. Year-Round Family PH Beds in HMIS:							18	
3. HMIS Coverage Individual PH Beds: (Divide line 2 by line 1 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.)			100%	6. HMIS Coverage Family PH Beds: (Divide line 5 by line 4 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.)							100%	

*Permanent Supportive Housing is: S+C, Section 8 SRO and SHP-Permanent Housing component. It also includes any permanent housing projects, such as public housing units, that have been dedicated exclusively to serving homeless persons.

Appendix C: Continuum of Care Services Inventory Chart

(1) Provider Organizations	(2) Prevention					(3) Outreach			(4) Supportive Services									
	Mortgage Assistance	Rental Assistance	Utilities Assistance	Counseling/Advocacy	Legal Assistance	Street Outreach	Mobile Clinic	Law Enforcement	Case Management	Life Skills	Alcohol & Drug Abuse	Mental Health Counseling	Healthcare	HIV/AIDS	Education	Employment	Child Care	Transportation
Alexian Brothers – The Harbor									X	X	X			X				X
Affordable Housing Corporation				X														
A Safe Place				X					X	X								
Catholic Charities	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Christian Outreach of Lutherans									X	X								
College of Lake County															X		X	
Emmaus House	X	X	X															
Fair Housing Center				X														
HealthReach													X					
IL Dept of Children & Family Services		X	X	X													X	
IL Employment Training Center (Work Dev)																X		
Independence Center				X					X	X		X				X		X
I-PLUS				X						X								
Kids Hope United / Rebound									X	X		X			X	X		X
Lake County Community Action Project	X	X	X	X														
Lake County Haven									X	X		X				X		
Lake County Health Department				X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
Maristella		X		X					X	X								
Nicasa									X	X	X	X				X	X	X
PADS Crisis Services		X	X	X		X			X	X					X	X		X
Prairie State Legal Services					X													
North Chicago VA Medical Center						X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Rosalind Franklin University													X					
Salvation Army	X	X	X	X							X						X	
Shields Township		X	X															X
Veteran's Commission	X	X																
Waukegan Township			X	X					X	X		X			X	X	X	X
YWCA																	X	
Zion Township		X	X	X					X						X	X		X